Request of ONGC for CBM Exploration

2544. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has applied for 560 sq. km. of area for award on nomination basis for carrying out Coal Bed Methane exploration;

(b) if so, the status of the request;

(c) whether the decision of the Ministry has been communicated to ONGC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC applied for an area of 560 sq. km. with effect from 1.2.1997 in Parbatpur area of Jharia Coal Field, Bihar.

(b) to (d) Govt. of Bihar accorded working permission for 3 months commencing on 6.5.1997 in the first instance. Subsequently working permission was granted on 28.7.1997 and 12.1.1998 for six months each finally valid upto 5.8.1998.

Exploration at Ichhapur

2545. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ichhapur site promising: ONGC Officials" published in the Statesman (Calcutta edition), dated 21st May, 1998;

(b) the status of oil exploration at Ichhapur as on date, alongwith the detailed planning of further work at the site;

(c) whether drilling job in Bangladesh would be carried out through Central Regional Business Centre of ONGC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first well on Ichhapur project gave indications of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons from an Oligocene sand. The next two wells drilled one each at Icchapur and Shantipur went dry. In addition to the above, 3D seismic data have also been acquired over this area for processing, interpretation and integration.

At present a side-tracked well is being drilled to re-test the promising Oligocene sand encountered at Ichhapur. The well has reached a side-tracked depth of 4385 meter, and is being logged. Further action plan will be decided after integration of the results of side-tracked well and the interpretation of 3D data.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The drilling job in Bangladesh will be carried out through a separate project and the Head of the project will report to the Director (Drilling) of ONGC.

Handing-over of oil wells to multinationals

2546. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some oil wells had been handed-over to a few multinationals in Bombay High;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production (exploration) has increased from these wells;

(d) if so, what has been the production prior to as well as after handing-over to the multinationals; and

(e) the details of measures taken by Government to increase oil exploration by having an aggressive participation by